

NEWARK COMMUNITY FOR PEOPLE WITH AIDS

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'Let Us Fight The Virus, Not Each Other'
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Minutes for membership meeting of Wednesday, 20 July, 1988

Our fifth membership meeting was convened at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Council Conference Chambers (Room 304) at Newark City Hall.

Those present included Mr. Frank Bell, Ms Elsie Dickenson, Mr. Curtis Ducksworth, Mr. John Dzwonar, Mr. Sherman Glasco, Lady Sheard, Mr. Ritchie Sheard, Rev. Perry Simmons, and Mr. Derek Winans. [Mr. Richard Powell and Mr. Richard Proctor had telephoned earlier to explain they would not be able to attend.]

Following introductions and a welcome to new participants, the proposed agenda (attachment A) was approved and minutes of the previous meeting (6-30-88) were also approved as distributed.

In lieu of a report from the Education/Prevention Committee, Mr. Winans reported a kind offer from Dr. John W. Alexander for representatives of the group to appear on his WNJR Monday evening talk show, 'Focus on Community Health.' Among those volunteering to represent us were Mr. Glasco, Lady Sheard, and Mr. Ducksworth. Mr. Winans will ask Mr. Powell, in his capacity as Education/Prevention Chair, to coordinate. [Taping is set for Monday, September 26th, at 10 a.m. at WNJR studios in Hillside. The show is to air Monday evening, October 3rd at 7 p.m.]

Mr. Ducksworth presented his report on an in-depth discussion he held with Ms. Joyce Jackson of the State Health Department regarding available resources vs. projected needs. [See Mr. Ducksworth's written report with several pages of appendices, including an extensive bibliography on AIDS, mailed on Friday, July 29th.]

Some prospective issues: We need to consult case managers at various area hospitals regarding their perceptions of current needs; there is a three month waiting list for the state's only hospice for people with AIDS in the North Jersey area; and the state has growing concerns regarding homeless people with AIDS, especially those not living in shelters.

Mr. Glasco suggested we need to consider developing a support system among ourselves, especially for those involved on the front lines in the fight against AIDS.

Mr. Winans thanked Mr. Ducksworth for his extensive research and the substantial data he has collected and disseminated. He suggested that Messrs. Ducksworth and Powell meet with Ms. Carla Potter, City Health Education Coordinator, to help develop a format for the pending AIDS Resource Directory and to assist in setting some priorities and various messages for the proposed AIDS Speakers Bureau. Mr. Glasco suggested he would like to volunteer for the Speakers Bureau.

At this point, Mr. Ducksworth requested he be permitted to present the Treasurer's Report, which had been inadvertently omitted earlier in the meeting. He reported cash receipts of \$430.38 and additional pledges of \$190. [There are some outstanding paid invoices still held by Mr. Winans.] Mr. Dzwonar suggested applying for a waiver of service charges from the bank.

Mr. Ducksworth also reported on difficulties we have experienced with freeing our bank account, including a recent bureaucratic snafu at the County Clerk's office. He read from a letter addressed to us by City National Bank which will be turned over to our attorney, George Hanley, Esq., for follow up with the Secretary of State's Office.

He also said we are on a waiting list to obtain a Post Office Box at the Main Post Office but need to write a letter requesting special consideration.

Mr. Glasco stated he will be attending an AIDS Minorities Conference from August 14th through the 23rd and will bring back new information.

Mr. Winans moved to the Finance and Solicitation report:

-We will need to prepare and disseminate invitations ASAP for the cocktail reception benefit at the home of Mr. Charles Cummings slated for Thursday evening, August 11th. Mr. Mark Toone has volunteered to design one.

-Mr. John Dzwonar, Co-Director of Special Audiences, reported on the powerful impact he perceived from a performance by The People with AIDS Theater Workshop of New York. Besides being a consciousness-raising session and a potential fund-raising event, such a production would have valuable educational, therapeutic, and informational benefits, he stated.

Mr Dzwonar will continue discussions with the theater troupe regarding a production in Newark to benefit the Workshop and the Newark Community Project equally, probably some time in the early Fall.

-The semi-formal dinner, marking the 15th anniversary of Derek Winans and Al Jordan, is scheduled for Thursday evening, December 1st, (Mr. Sheard's birthday) at the Gateway Hilton with Rev. Buster Soaries as master of ceremonies. All net proceeds will go to the Newark Community Project. [Lady Sheard asked that we try to schedule future events to avoid Thursday evenings.]

-We are still awaiting three potential dates from the Club Eden for a disco dance, possibly featuring a live performance by Gwen Guthrie.

Relative to the Incorporation papers, Mr. Winans reported Attorney Hanley has almost completed a draft and will mail them. Trustees for the incorporation include Ms. Wanda Vandy, and Messrs. Ducksworth, Jordan, Powell and Winans.

Copies of different model by-laws, obtained courtesy of the Support Center by Mr. Sheard, were discussed. Messrs. Dzwonar and Glasco will join Ms. Dickenson and Mr. Sheard on the Ad Hoc Committee to draft proposed by-laws for the Newark Community Project for People With AIDS and report at our next meeting.

The next meeting was slated for Wednesday, August 3rd, (Mr. Glasco's birthday) at 7 p.m., probably here at City Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.